



# Citizen Police Advisory Review Board Minutes

The Citizen's Police Advisory Review Board (CPARB) met on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. in the Basement of the Main Library, 101 N. Stone Ave, Tucson, Arizona.

## 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

### Members Present:

Susan Thornton, Chair  
Stephen Nekolek  
Suzanne Elefante  
Jennifer Lopez  
Cynthia Schiesel  
Joaquin Murrieta, Vice Chair  
Barbara O'Brien

### Representing:

Mayor  
Ward 1  
Ward 2  
Ward 3 (departed at 6:25 p.m.)  
Ward 4  
Ward 5  
Ward 6

### Advisory Members Absent:

Karen Brandel

### Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Present:

Captain Bill Richards, Tucson Police Department  
Lieutenant Rick Hovden, Tucson Police Department  
Baird Greene, Principal Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office  
Robert Barton, Office of the Independent Police Auditor  
Sergeant Matt Ronstadt, Tucson Police Department

### Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Absent:

Liana Perez, Independent Police Auditor  
Sergeant Sharon Callan, Tucson Police Department  
Officer Steven Beller, Tucson Police Department

### Others Present:

Assistant Chief Roberto Villasenor, Tucson Police Department  
Lieutenant Ron Stiso, Tucson Police Department  
Officer Meredith Gierke, Tucson Police Department  
Ana Smith, Secretary, City Clerk's Office

Chair Thornton announced Assistant Chief Roberto Villasenor was in attendance.

**2. Approval of Minutes from Meeting of March 17, 2009**

Motion by Jennifer Lopez, duly seconded, and passed by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to approve the minutes of March 17, 2009, with the following corrections:

Page 2, Item #4, paragraph 2 should read: Because there were no injuries, TPD would not respond unless one of the parties specifically asked and then an officer would be ~~disputed~~ **dispatched**.

**3. First Call to the Audience**

There were no speakers.

**4. Review of Citizen Comments submitted to Mayor and Council in reference to TPD for March as reported on April 1, 2009.**

The Board asked about comment number eight which dealt with a constituent stating that the speed monitor sign that clocked her at tracking thirty-nine miles per hour (mph) was not calibrated correctly and someone needed to correct it. Tucson Police Department (TPD) stated the speed monitoring sign was not their equipment and speed monitoring signs were put out by the contracted company.

The Board asked about comment number nine which dealt with a constituent being upset because she received a parking ticket for one hundred and seventy-five dollars when she was at the street fair. TPD stated Park Wise was the department who handled and enforced parking violations.

**5. Presentation on Community Events**

Captain Bill Richards introduced Lieutenant Ron Stiso from the Community Events Section of the Tucson Police Department (TPD).

Lieutenant Ron Stiso, TPD Community Events Section, stated his section handled Special Duty Targeted Response Units, Graffiti Removal Program, Volunteer Reserves, and Special Events. He explained what each of the departments did. He spoke about the graffiti removal program and said a private company was contracted to remove graffiti from commercial and residential areas.

## 6. Office of the Independent Police Auditor

- A. Outreach Report: Report of public outreach efforts by the office of the Independent Police Auditor during the previous month.

Robert Barton, Office of the Independent Police Auditor (IPA), stated in the month of March 2009, the IPA office and Internal Affairs (IA) conducted one outreach activity to the Post Basic Academy.

- B. Monthly Contacts: Report on TPD-related contacts by members of the public with the office of the Independent Police Auditor during the previous month.

Robert Barton, Office of the Independent Police Auditor (IPA) stated the office received eighteen contacts during the month of March 2009, six cases were forwarded to Internal Affairs (IA) for review. He said the IPA had twelve inquiries and complaints, and conducted reviews of twenty closed cases that were closed by IA. Mr. Barton performed random reviews of twenty fair and thorough closed cases that were previously investigated by IA. He said that IPA agreed with the findings of those cases.

Robert Barton, Office of the Independent Police Auditor (IPA) said he compiled a report for the first quarter of 2009 and overall the complaint level had come down ten percent compared to 2008. He said the seriousness of those complaints were diminishing in terms of the kinds of complaints that came through the office. He said it reflected well within the community and constituents were getting familiar with the IPA Office and using the them as a resource.

## 7. Tucson Police Department:

- A. TPD Updates regarding events or developments relating to TPD during the prior month.

Assistant Chief Roberto Villasenor, Tucson Police Department (TPD) stated TPD was continuing with the Violent Crime Task Force program which had been very successful. He stated TPD had seen a seventy percent drop in homicide crime compared to last year. He spoke about border violence issues and how Arizona's border violence had been portrayed in the news media.

Assistant Chief Villasenor stated TPD had two fallen officers who died this passed away, Officer Allen Johnson and Officer Bryan Miller due to off non-duty related deaths. He said weekend TPD had ~~there~~ **their** annual volunteer appreciation picnic and "Tip a Cop Event" Olympics where TPD raised money for Special Olympics. He also mentioned he passed out certificates to the recent graduating class of the Citizen's Police Academy.

- B. Office of Internal Affairs/Updates regarding events or developments relating to the Office of Internal Affairs during the prior month

Assistant Chief Roberto Villasenor, Tucson Police Department (TPD) stated TPD sent twenty officers to the National Police Officers memorial in Washington DC in honor of Officer Erik ~~Hyatt~~ **Hite**. He said TPD was also having their own Regional Police Officer and Local Enforcement memorial, which CPARB members were invited to attend.

Chair Thornton asked Assistant Chief Villasenor if he could comment on the hiring process for the Police Chief position. Assistant Chief Villasenor stated he and Captain Richards were two out of nine candidates in the process and were waiting to hear the decision of the panel.

## **8. Selection of Advisory Board members**

- A. Criteria and questions

Chair Thornton stated she had prepared copies of the questions for the selection of the new non-advisory board members. Chair Thornton asked the Board to review them and report back to her with any changes or comments.

- B. Sub-committee

Chair Thornton stated the volunteers for the sub-committee were Karen Brandel, Jennifer Lopez, Stephen Nekolek and Cynthia Schiesel as the Chair.

## **9. Recess**

Motion by Jennifer Lopez, duly seconded, and passed by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to forego recess.

## **10. Random Review of TPD Investigations:**

1. Case# 08-0669

Motion by Cynthia Schiesel, duly seconded, and passed by a voice vote 6 to 1, Jennifer Lopez abstaining due to she did not receive the new case files, to find Case# 08-0669 to be a fair and thorough investigation.

Jennifer Lopez departed at 6:25 p.m.

2. Case# 07-0182

Motion by Cynthia Schiesel, duly seconded, and passed by a voice vote 6 to 0 (Jennifer Lopez absent), to find Case# 07-0182 to be a fair and thorough investigation.

3. Case# 08-0738

Motion by Barbara O'Brien, duly seconded, and passed by a voice vote 6 to 0 (Jennifer Lopez absent), to find Case# 08-0738 to be a fair and thorough investigation.

**11. Second Call to the Audience**

There were no speakers.

**12. Report from Chair / Announcements**

- A. Chair Thornton stated the Board received a letter from a concerned constituent regarding a traffic stop and the validity of the letter. She asked who would be the appropriate department to follow up. Captain Richards stated that the IPA office would follow up with the constituent.
- B. Chair Thornton thanked Vice Chair Murrieta for selecting cases to review while Washington DC earlier in the month. Chair Thornton mentioned she took in the sight of the Police Officers Memorial while in Washington DC and said it was very impressive.

**13. Future Agenda Items**

- A. Presentation by Lieutenant Lisa Sarro on CALEA
- B. Time table for next month from the Non-Advisory Board Member Selection Committee.

**14. Adjournment – 6:55 p.m.**

Motion by Joaquin Murrieta, duly seconded, and passed by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Jennifer Lopez absent).